



The HPD News

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Promotion Ceremony Honors Civilian Employees

A Civilian Promotion Ceremony was held on Monday, April 23, 2001, for 19 civilian employees of the Houston Police Department. Assistant Chief N.D. Wong (Professional Development) presented achievement certificates and pens to each employee to acknowledge his or her accomplishments within the department. The recipients, their new titles and the command of their new assignment are:

Administration Coordinator: Gary L. Gano - Senior Human Resources Specialist.

Chief's Command: Lena M. Farris - Buyer; Kristina L. Kollaja - Fixed Asset Clerk; George Malveaux - Senior Fixed Asset Specialist; Mary Olvera - Buyer; Maria Ponce - Senior

Secretary: Emilie Saenz - Administrative Assistant I; Peggy Sappington - Senior Account Clerk; Ben Wilson - Financial Analyst III; Reba Wright - Financial Analyst II.

Information Services Command: Chien-Tai

Lin - Microcomputer Analyst; Richard McClarty - IRM Manager; John Sifuentes - Police Telecommunicator Supervisor; Marcell Stewart - Police Telecommunicator.

Professional Development Command: Tahietta Gosey -



Asst. Chief N.D. Wong presents Tamara Davis with her achievement certificate at the Civilian Promotion Ceremony on April 23, 2001

Senior Word Processor.

Support Services Command: Tamara Davis - Administrative Assistant II; Larry Garvin - Senior Storekeeper; Christina Montemayor - Senior Jail Attendant; April Velasquez - Data Entry Operator.

HPD Observes National Police Week

The Houston Police Department will observe National Police Week from May 14 - 18, 2001, with several events in which **ALL** employees and the public are invited to participate. On Tuesday, May 15, a memorial procession and service will be held at 10:15 a.m. at the HPD Memorial Monument (2400 Memorial Drive) to honor and remember HPD officers who have died in the line of duty. On Wednesday, May 16, at 10 a.m. a 'prayer day' will be observed at HPD Headquarters (1200 Travis Street). Participants will encircle the building and pray for the protection of officers and civilian employees. On Thursday, May 17, at 10:30 a.m. the Police Week Awards Ceremony will be held at the High School for Law Enforcement (4701 Dickson) to recognize outstanding performance and achievement by officers, civilian employees and citizens on behalf of HPD. The L.D. Morrison Police Training Academy and Police Museum (17000 Aldine-Westfield Road at Rankin Road) will be open for guided tours of the facility from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. during the entire week. Contact Officer Denny Hair at the Academy at 281-230-2300, ext. 2361 to schedule your group's visit. National Police Week began in 1961 when President John F. Kennedy and the United States Senate signed a joint resolution proclaiming May 15 of each year as National Police Officer Memorial Day.

Chief's Column

As the increasing heat indicates, summer will quickly be upon us. Of course, when summer begins, the school year ends. Many of us will take advantage of this break in our children's schedules to take a family vacation where we will build happy memories to last a lifetime.

For some, however, the lifetime memories made this summer may be tragic.

When schools are not in session, the number of children who are out and about increases substantially. Conse-

quently, the number of auto-pedestrian accidents that involve school age children increases drastically.

The Texas Department of Public Safety reported that during the 1999 school months only 47 auto-pedestrian accidents involving school age children were reported. However, during the brief span from June through August, 48 such accidents were reported. Four of these accidents resulted in a child's death.

These numbers clearly indicate an increased risk of which we as police officers, parents, and drivers need to be

aware.

Although I urge each of you to drive with caution at all times, please recognize the amount of pain and suffering the above statistics represent.

Use all possible care and caution when driving near places where children may be encountered, such as parks, entertainment centers, and residential areas.

On that note of caution, I sincerely wish each of you a safe and enjoyable summer.



ECD's Marilyn Scott: Talking at Code One Speed



When Marilyn Scott says she loves her job at HPD, she's not just 'talking the talk'! Ms. Scott has been a 'call-taker' in the Emergency Communications Division for almost two years. Her commitment to the department and the public has led to an outstanding achievement that few others can equal.

HPD has 170 call-takers who answer about 200,000

calls each month from citizens who either use the HPD non-emergency number (713-222-3131) or are transferred from 911. Within seconds call-takers must calmly define the nature of the call and use

their best judgement to determine its importance before transferring the information to a dispatcher. They must also keep in mind how critical the department's response time is to the call. Most HPD call-takers handle between 15 to 20 calls per hour.

According to letters of commendation, Ms. Scott often exceeds 40 calls per hour and

once even reached 62 calls in an hour. But on March 24-25, 2001, she achieved a 'personal best' by taking an unbelievable 72 calls in one hour!

"I treat every call as a 'code one' because it *could* potentially result in a 'code one' emergency," said Ms. Scott.

Helping people has meant a lot to her throughout her life.

What's her 'secret' to handling so many calls so efficiently? "I politely tell the caller that they need to get to the point quickly so I can get them the help they need faster," said Ms. Scott.

"I also keep my voice calm so that they will calm down. Two people screaming at each other will not get the job done. It doesn't help me or the citizen that's calling."

Memorial Monument Honors Fallen HPD Officers



If a symbol exists that reflects the regard Houston's citizens have for their police officers, it has to be the Houston Police Officers Memorial monument.

The memorial monument (2400 Memorial Drive) was dedicated on November 19, 1992. The monument perpetuates the memory of police officers who gave their lives in the performance of their duties to the citizens of Houston. A few years prior to the dedication, a group of businessmen conceived the idea of the memorial monument. They sought the support of city officials and their idea began to take shape. A commitment from the Mayor, the City Council, the Parks and Recreation Department and the Houston Police Department brought the businessmen's idea to reality.

The entire project was funded by donations collected from citizens and the corporate sector. The city donated the land where the monument is now located. The monument was designed by Jesus Moroles of Rockport, Texas. The monument consists of a central rising stepped pyramid with descending pyramids on each of its four sides. The top level contains a gently flowing fountain rising from another inverted granite pyramid to form a waterfall just beneath the four granite slabs, presenting the fallen officers' names to the sky.

HPD Trading Cards Stack Up As Collectible Items

The Houston Police Department's "Kids and Cops" trading cards may never replace "Pokemon" cards, but they are making a lasting impact on Houston's youngsters. "Kids and Cops" trading cards feature police officers on the front of the card and their rank, assignment, description of their duties and their personal motivational message to kids on the back. There have been a total of seven sets of trading cards produced with the last four sets adopting the trademarked name "Kids and Cops". These collectible cards have featured some of "Houston's Finest" including Houston Mayor Lee P. Brown and Chief of Police C.O. Bradford.

The current set is a 30-card series featuring officers from the South Central Bike Patrol, the Fondren Differential Response Team, the Radar Task Force Unit, the D.A.R.E. Unit and the Community Services Unit which includes "Officer Whistles" and "Rudy", HPD's interactive police robot.

"Kids and Cops" sponsors are Guaranty Bank, The Home Depot and KHOU-TV, Channel 11. For more information, call Joyce Walker (HPD Community Outreach) at 713-308-9100.

Officer Receives Lynn Clooney Memorial Award

Officer Robert 'Tiger' Mathews (North Patrol) is this year's recipient of the Lynn Clooney Memorial Award presented by the Houston Citizens' Police Academy Alumni Association. Officer Mathews was selected for his dedicated service to the department since 1971 while assigned to the North Division, the Internal Affairs Division, the Juvenile Division, the Jail Division and the Emergency Communications Division. Lynn Clooney was a founding member of the Houston Citizens' Police Academy and was a graduate of its first class in 1989. She supported HPD through her involvement with the alumni association and the Positive Interaction Program.



HPD Opens New Storefronts

The Ephirne F. Leija Storefront is named for the first Hispanic captain in the Houston Police Department. Capt. Leija joined HPD in December, 1966. Captain Leija was also the first captain of the Eastside Division. He retired in February, 1990 and died on March 22, 1998. Captain Leija has now added another ‘first’ to his name even though he is no longer with us. The Ephirne F. Leija Storefront is the first police storefront in the United States to be located on a school campus. It opened on January 2, 2001, and is located at the east entrance of the Cesar E. Chavez High School at 4701 Old Galveston Road. The storefront is open from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The telephone number is 713-847-1210.



The Heights Storefront is now located at 910 North Durham in a strip shopping center. Donations from area businesses, civic groups and citizens, along with the help of the Heights Storefront Advisory Council, led up to the grand opening of the facility on October 25, 2000. The Heights Storefront is open from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. The telephone number is 713-803-1151.

The Westwood Storefront opened on October 17, 2000, inside the old Westwood Mall at 9700 Bissonnet in space donated specifically for a storefront by the mall's new owners, A.G.B. Westwood, L.P. Officers assigned to the storefront have helped reduce crime in nearby apartments and town homes by working closely with property owners and advising them of changes that needed to be made to improve the quality of life in the area. The Westwood Storefront is open from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. The telephone number is 713-773-7000.

